



Retreat and advance

Forty top LWW leaders peer into the future

By TODD JENKINS

Celebrate the past, evaluate the present and plan for the future. Those were the aims of some 40 leaders from across LWW who gathered for an annual planning retreat January 28-30.

The site was NaCoMe, the camp and conference center west of Nashville that is shared by the Presbytery of the Mid-South and Presbytery of Middle Tennessee — deep in the woods of Middle Tennessee, far from the nearest cell phone signal, but well-fed and cared for by the camp's staff and cooks.

Since its inception, Living Waters for the World has continually sought to adjust and adapt to changes in circumstances as well as to learn from its diverse experiences in partnering to provide clean water at (so far) 349 sites in 20 different countries, one community at a time.

The message and methods of the organization have spread across the globe through a thousand or so volunteers who have been trained and equipped to spread the gospel via one of earth's most essential building blocks, clean water.

LWW leadership constantly seeks to simplify and improve its structure, from leadership teams and committees to training curricula and instruc-

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LWW Committee moderator Tim Myrick (left) and Appalachian Network coordinator Jeff Wagner report on discussion group's findings.

Water systems helping to fight cholera's rampage in Haiti

By CHRIS McRAE

Hurricanes, earthquakes and now cholera are the plagues of Haiti. One must wonder what disaster must "Ayiti" endure next. There is a saying in this Caribbean nation, "Lapenn Profité," which means "misfortune abuses us."

In October 2010 cholera broke out in the Artibonite River region near St. Marc, a town about 50 miles north of Port-au-Prince. Spread by infected food and contaminated water, the

disease quickly spread throughout the region and has been blamed for over 2,000 deaths to date.

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Appalachian *factoids*

- * 54 systems installed serving 58 families
- 18 churches currently working in 5 areas
- 3 new installations finished in January

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Four systems so far in Haiti's cholera area

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Since this insidious disease has not been present in Haiti for over 100 years, the locals believe that it was brought in by UN troops from Nepal. Tests are being run, but no conclusion as to the source of this strain has been determined. Rumors, though, are running rampant and all sorts of allegations are being leveled at foreigners.

Jerry Goode and I might have been the targets of such rumors on our last trip to Haiti in January. We were invited to survey a public well at a place on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince going toward Léogane called Carrefour. We met with the officials who invited us and started testing the well.

A crowd quickly formed, and I assumed that it was out of curiosity. Ancy, our guide and interpreter, came up to me and said that it is time to go now. I was miffed because we had not completed the survey. Nevertheless, Ancy insisted and we followed his lead.

In the vehicle, as we were leaving, Ancy explained that many in the crowd were angry that we were there and that they were insisting that their water was good. Some in Haiti think that foreigners are poisoning their water in order to kill off the population.

There can be many side affects to the cholera outbreak that are not caused by the disease itself. This is one of them.

In this case LWW will not be listing this water location as a possible future system. This is sad because this water tested very bad for bacteria and is most



With a helping hand, clean water flows again in Haiti.

likely the cause of much water borne related sickness in the area.

There is some good news in all this misfortune. The LWW Haiti network has four systems located in the region where cholera was first reported. These systems have reported an increase in use since the outbreak of cholera. One system at Croix des Bouquets has communicated that area residents are using LWW water in which to take baths. That's got to be a first ... for Haiti, anyway.

From cholera to clean water, maybe we are making a difference one treatment system at a time. Our 102 training has much more impact now that Haitians realize that what you drink can kill you.

The people who took the health and hygiene training at Blanket this January understand. 💧

Chris McRae of Fort Smith, Ark., cochairs LWW's Haiti Network Coordinating Team.

Retreat asks leaders: What lies ahead for LWW mission?

Continued from front page

tors.

In the retreat's plenary activities and a variety of task-specific small groups, leadership teams evaluated and examined past and current practices and set the stage for ongoing adaptations to meet the needs of its volunteers and their partners for years to come. One focus, for example, was on what the mis-

sion would look like in five years.

Attendees tackled progress on identified Key Results Areas, curriculum review for each of the three Clean Water U courses, and exercises to generate and focus LWW's vision for the future.

The culminating event was Saturday evening's surprise roast/toast of longtime LWW and CWU stalwart Bill Williams of Paris, Tenn.

Bill has served since before the inception of CWU in numerous capacities, including a three-year term as LWW Committee moderator, CWU-101 lead Instructor, catalyst for his own congregation's LWW mission team, and editor-in-chief of "Water of Life" newsletter. 💧

The Rev. Todd Jenkins is pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville, Tenn., and a CWU instructor.

Installation marks earthquake anniversary

Solar-powered unit is part of Haiti Relief Project

By TIM MYRICK

“Greater things have yet to come, greater things are still to be done...”

When Chris Tomlin wrote those lyrics to “God of this City,” it was as though he was speaking directly to the people of Haiti.

A year after the January 12 earthquake in Haiti, little has changed, but there is a great amount of hope and faith that greater things are still to be done in Port-au-Prince, Leogane and beyond.

An across-the-USA team of LWW volunteers honored the January 12 anniversary of the earthquake by installing a solar-powered water treatment system at Blanket Baptist Church and School, about 26 miles northeast of Port-au-Prince.

The team, led by the Herndon Methodist Church of Herndon, Virginia, successfully completed the installation as part of the Haiti Relief Project of LWW.

While the Blanket School was out of session all the week, in remembrance of the earthquake, our team was working in the 90-degree heat alongside the children and interested community members to repair their well and pumping system, complete the solar power unit, and assemble the filters and ozone treatment train.

With school on break, the teachers and young adults easily and enthusiastically attended the clean water education class, which is so important to the



An installation team's prayer circle marks the day and hour of the one-year anniversary of Haiti's devastating earthquake.

distribution and use of that coming clean water.

As Ashley Broadhurst, the 101 Team Leader, stated at the end of our efforts there, “This was the best of my four installation trips to Haiti, in terms of installation schedules, community partnership, and everyone staying healthy.”

Our team attributed that to her excellent leadership skills, the local Haitian support team, and the fact that we were staying at a church served by clean water from LWW's first solar installation in Haiti!

Blanket is a community of about 500 people, living on the deforested hillsides of central Haiti. Most of the community is made up of subsistence farmers, who

trek down the dusty gravel road to the main highway to sell their wares each week, and depend on limited rainwater and a few local hand-pumped wells to provide their freshwater needs.

The Blanket Baptist Church, led by Pastor Cherenfant Evens, is the Operating Partner for this installation. The congregation of about 150 people covered us with joy and love as we did our work. They're also providing the operators for the system and began distributing the clean water throughout the community following the dedication service on Sunday, January 16.

The 13-person LWW team for this installation was joined by Chris McRae, the Haiti Network Co-Coordinator and Jerry Goode, the Haiti Relief Project Manager, as they were in-country for additional site surveys and to host the first-ever Haiti Network Operator's Conference, where some 45 Operating Partners and system operators gathered for a two-day sharing.

Broadhurst reflected, “This trip will go down in the books as a textbook installation. It really could not have gone better. It gives me hope that month-by-month, installation-by-installation, Living Waters is bringing greater things to Haiti and its people.” 🌍

Tim Myrick of Oak Ridge, Tenn., is moderator of the Living Waters for the World Committee.

‘...A drink of water becomes an act of anxiety’

In its mission work, LWW frequently is in contact with other mission organizations. Here is a comment from one of them. Trace Thurlby is the president of The Global Orphan Project, based near Kansas City. It operates 20 orphanages in Haiti and others around the world.

In a recent message to LWW contacts, he referred to a water system installed through the work of the Presbytery of the Pines along with

others who assisted. Here's what he said:

“In the town of Croix Des Boquets, there is a water purification system that was installed last month. From that system, hundreds of people, children and adults alike, are drinking clean, healthy water. ... At a time when just taking a drink of water becomes an act of anxiety, you have helped bring safety and security to a community.” 🌍

It's bitter cold, but really warm in Kazakhstan

By STEVE YOUNG

Greetings all from Northern Kazakhstan, where the highs are -10 F., the people are warm, the meals always contain cabbage and the scenery is jaw-dropping.

Tonya and I are here on the first of two trips to adopt our second child, Sam. In the fall of 2008, we were here to adopt our first child, Lily Grace, who is being cared for by our family back home while we're away.

This first trip is typically the longer of two required, and in our case, much longer. We arrived on December 27, and attended court February 11. I will return for about a week to bring Sam home — probably in the latter part of March.

We visit the baby house (orphanage) for two hours every day, bonding with Sam. He is a brown-eyed, sandy-haired nine-month-old with an infectious grin and a lot of heart. He has overcome much, thanks to the help of his wonderful caregivers.

We so look forward to bringing him home to meet his new "Sissy" and beginning his new life in Tennessee, surrounded by a large extended family.

The experiences we have had here, as the last time, have been varied, educational, inspiring, and just all-around wonderful. From walking on frozen lakes surrounded by pyramid-shaped mountains, to becoming friends with the woman who

brought jazz music to Kazakhstan, to eating borscht and more borscht, to attending a torch relay ceremony for the Asian Winter Games — complete with a chance to dress like Kazakh warriors of old — there has been no shortage of experiences we will share with our children.

We invite you to learn more about this fascinating multi-cultural country, once a part of the USSR and now a burgeoning democracy, and to learn more about our own journey, by visiting our blog at <http://trueloveandhomegrowntomatoes.blogspot.com>.

Steve Young of Franklin, Tenn., serves full-time on the LWW staff as Director of Development.

Yucatan operating partners go independent

By JOANIE LUKINS

Imagine our surprise when we arrived in San Antonio Cardenas in the Yucatan peninsula to find a huge welcome banner spread across the road!

The host church (El Buen Pastor, or Good Shepherd) had gone all-out to make this fifth annual Yucatan Operators Continuing Education Seminar a memorable and profitable experience for everyone who attended.

Ninety men and women from across the peninsula, some having driven hundreds of miles, gathered to share experiences — problems and solutions — and to learn more about operating their clean water systems.

Highlights of the seminar included:

- For the first time, the entire seminar was led by experienced operators from the Yucatan, rather than our Living Waters engineers or the

local equipment supplier.

- The body set up a fund for emergency repairs; all systems will contribute, and any system can borrow from the fund and repay as it is able.

- An executive committee was created to make policy decisions (e.g., maximum pricing and standardization of bottle labels).

- A covenant was formed between the Synod of the

Peninsula and the Synod of Tabasco (next state west of the peninsula, very poor and vulnerable to flooding) whereby the experienced Yucatan operators will assist that synod in establishing relationships for the purpose of installing water systems there. This is very exciting, as it represents a "pass it on" mentality.

At the end of the conference, two communities of-

ferred to host next year's seminar, so there was a vote to see which would be honored!

It is encouraging to see the Mexican brothers and sisters taking ownership of this network, and understanding it as a ministry that they can offer to their communities in the name of Jesus Christ.

Joanie Lukins of Danville, Ky., is moderator of LWW's Yucatan Network Coordinating Team.



It was a standing-room-only crowd when Yucatan operators gathered for their fifth annual conference at San Antonio Cardenas.

Telling the story — Presenters travel across America

By BILL REED

Literally coast to coast, people with a passion for Living Waters for the World are telling the story with personal presentations at a variety of venues

Significant presentations/exhibits in recent months include Kary and Nanette LaFors at the annual convention of the American Public Health Association, Maggie Hendrix at Cascades Presbytery in Oregon, Wil Howie at Pittsburgh Presbytery and a coalition of LWW-active churches in the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia.

Numerous additional presentations have been made

at individual churches and other local venues.

Early in 2011, Pierce Buford and Jerry and Kathy Vaughan represented LWW at the Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators in Albuquerque. Jenny Thagard led an LWW workshop at this APCE conference.


Wil Howie recently presented at the Presbytery of Pittsburgh. Other presbyteries will have LWW presentations in the near future.

In July of this year, LWW will be represented at the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nashville.

If you are making a presentation somewhere, or gen-



Maggie Hendrix staffs an LWW booth at a meeting of the Cascades Presbytery in Oregon.

erally have a desire to help out, please keep Bill Reed informed at willmreed@aol.com. 

Bill Reed of Dover, Del., coordinates volunteer and staff LWW presentations for the Development and Awareness Team.

CWUWho —

Old pro Ralph Young has many LWW jobs

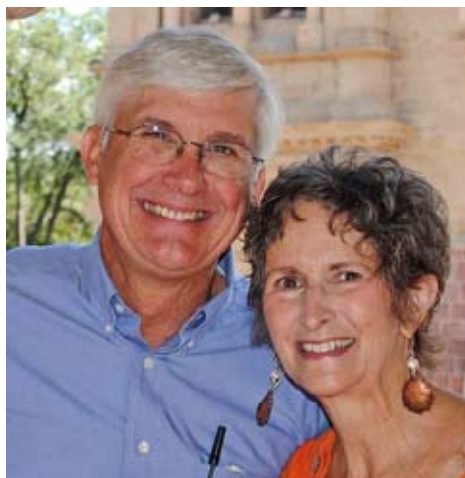
By KENDALL COX

Ralph Young's involvement in LWW goes back to the early days.

In 2002 an LWW flyer came across his desk, and one phone call to Wil Howie was all it took to get him on the Technical Committee, on which he has served ever since. 2003.

He's also the moderator of the Design Sub-team and provides support for Field Ops and the Network Sub-team. He has been a CWU-103 Lead Instructor for several years and usually teaches 1-2 sessions per year.

In 2007, Ralph retired from his day job as environmental manager for the Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. plant in Calvert City, Ky. He has been working as a staff support contractor for LWW for over two years now. While this is supposed to be a part-time work assignment supporting the LWW Network Coordinating Teams and the Technical



Ralph and Stephanie Young


aspects of LWW, it usually turns out to be more.

Asked what lessons Ralph would like to share with future water teams, he replied, "I can't over-emphasize the importance of being flexible and creative. No matter how hard you train and plan

for the trip, you will forget something or something will break.

"When it happens, stay calm, think through the problem, get input from your OP, and move on as best you can. There are very few deal breakers in the LWW Clean Water System, and you would be surprised at how teams overcome seemingly impossible problems. Trust in your faith and the faith of the members of your team."

Ralph's wife, Stephanie, is also very involved with LWW and is a CWU administrator. They have been married for 39 years and have two grown children and seven grandchildren.

Ralph and Stephanie have been members of First Presbyterian in Paducah for 25 years, serving on the Session as well as various church committees, and teaching Sunday School. 

Kendall Cox of Greenville, Miss., is program director of Clean Water U.

Short Shots

Presbyterian Women's crocheted necklaces as a fund-raising project for LWW is continuing to show results — the latest from Puerto Rico.

A check for \$460 recently was sent to project chairman Mary Weber of Harrisburg, Ky., by Prof. Marirosa Nazario, who wrote, "women are enthusiastic and have ordered more yarn to continue crocheting. This means I will be sending more funds. ..."

Information about the project is available from Mary Weber at Mary Weber, <hillsidetwo@roadrunner.com>

Next time you need to shop or go on-line to Amazon, think Living Waters for the World. We have a deal for you!

Anytime you go to Amazon through the LWW website, we get 5 percent of the proceeds of your sale. Fund raising for LWW has never been so simple.

So, next time you need to purchase something from Amazon, remember to go to the Living Waters website, www.livingwatersfortheworld.org, and click to the Amazon link at the very top of the page. 🌐



The congregation of the Monte de los Olivos Church celebrate the deliverance of clean water.

For California congregation, it's eight systems and counting

By MARK VANCIEL

In November 2010, First Presbyterian Church of Visalia, Calif., sent a small team to Guatemala to install a standard ozone Living Waters for the World clean water system.

That was at the Monte de los Olivos (Mount of Olives) C.A. Church in the community of Paraje Buena Vista, high in the mountains of the Sololá district in central Guatemala.

Ten team members from First Pres Visalia were joined by one from Grace Presbyterian Church in Plano Texas, and one from the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church in California.

This was the eighth system installed in the district, the result of a partnership that has developed over the years between the Visalia church and a group of 32 Central American mission churches that had joined together to build a youth camp in the district.

The first system "First Pres" installed was at the youth camp in November 2007, and that installation in turn led to seven other installations in seven partner churches.

The installation at Paraje Buena Vista was the most recent, but several more are pending.

The church there was selected for this installation because, in spite of its material poverty, it is very active in its community. The church hosts medical clinics on a monthly basis and operates the only school program for the children of the village with approximately 250 enrolled students. The system installed will provide clean drinking water for the children in that program, as well as the rest of people in the community. 🌐

Mark Vanciel is a CWU 103 instructor and leader of the mission team of First Presbyterian Church, Visalia, Calif.

WHAT LIES AHEAD

- LWW Team meetings
March 9-11, Franklin, TN
- LWW Committee meeting
March 31, Franklin
- CWU No. 28
March 23-27, Hopewell
- CWU No. 29
April 27-May 1, Hopewell
- CWU No. 30
June 13-17, Hopewell
- LWW Team meetings
July 20-22, Franklin
- LWW Committee meeting
August 1, Franklin

Pennsylvania team back in India

By KARY LaFORS

Return to India—it sounds like the name of a book or movie, but for Lower Providence Presbyterian Church of Eagleville, Pa., it's mission work through LWW

As February began, a team of six from the church was back in Vikarabad, India, for its first follow-up visit to the system installed early last year at the Bridge of Hope Ministries (BOHM) school and orphanage, and also to install a second system near the city of Hyderabad.

This second system will serve over 300 in a school, a medical clinic, and another 400 in the adjacent village.

The BOHM system is able to meet the needs of the school and orphanage and also the 300 people of the adjacent village.

India is the second far-off mission point for the Pennsylvania church. The first was in August 2007 to the man-made floating islands of the Uros people near Puno, Peru.

Kary and Nanette LaFors of LPPC are leading the current team, as they did last year's group of nine members, including Gabriel Devathala,



A banner and a parade with flags greeted the Lower Providence Presbyterian Church's team upon its arrival at Vikarabad, India.

an elder at Central Presbyterian in Norristown, Pa., and founder of BOHM.

Gabriel has lived with part of his family in Norristown while the other members, including his wife, live in India.

He and an associate had previously completed water tests, a community survey, a site survey, and reached a covenant agreement with LPPC, LWW and BOHM for

system operation and upkeep.

The health, hygiene, and spirituality training was a great success. After a meaningful celebration ceremony at the school, the team became tourists visiting Delhi, Agra, the Taj Mahal, Jaipur and the Amber Fort and Pink Palace. 🌐

Kary LaFors of Eagleville, Pa., is co-leader of his church's LWW mission team.

More than just a little drop

By JESSICA LEWIS

I'm just a drop of water,
a little bit of H₂O.

But with some help from
you, oh, the places that I'll
go!

I just need a little help
getting these germs off of
my back.

I just need a little trip
through that system that
you packed.

The children will be so
happy, so full of hope,
you'll see.

That you brought them
something special, a clean
little... me.

I guess I shouldn't brag, I get
all the credit, you know,
But you're bringing
something bigger than
some clean H₂O.

You're bringing them a
message, one of hope and
care and love.

You're showing them the
ways of our Father up
above.

He sent me to this town
from a cloud up in the sky,
And I believe He sent you
too, with a message from
up high.

So please accept my "thank
you" for helping make me
clean.

And enjoy the love you feel
when those children's
smiles gleam. 🌐

Jessica Lewis is youth director at First-Trinity Presbyterian Church in Laurel, Miss.

Family's partnership gift is \$30,100

By WIL HOWIE

Deeply touched by the work LWW is doing in the world, a family who wishes to remain anonymous presented in early January a gift of \$30,100!

They wish to strengthen the mission work of Presbyterian churches/presbyteries, so these funds will be made available to "Presbyterians who work with Presbyterian partners in the world."

Grant applications, for up to \$5,000,

are available through the synod office.

This generous couple has also expressed interest in the theological renewal of the PCUSA through encouraging churches to re-incorporate the Introduction to the Shorter Catechism.

Thanks be to God from whom all blessings — like clean water — flow

The Rev. Wil Howie of Water Valley, Miss., is founder and director of LWW.

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On-line gift message wins nation-wide plug

LWW's 2010 year-end project to recognize honorees of alternative-gift contributions has achieved national recognition. The Presbyterian News Service distributed this report, by Bethany Parkin, on December 20, under the heading, "Give the Gift of Water."

For Presbyterians rushing to find last-minute Christmas gifts, there's a better option than fighting the crowds and heading out to the nearest big-box store. Living Waters for the World, a mission resource of the

Synod of Living Waters, will provide an e-card for each donation made as an alternative gift for a family member or friend. ... When you make a donation to LWW in the name of someone on your gift list, they'll get a personalized e-card from LWW, explaining how the gift made in their honor helps bring clean water to those who need it.

(LWW's e-card program remains in effect. Check it out and honor a friend by visiting the LWW home page, livingwatersfortheworld.org.)


President praises students' treatment board

President Barack Obama personally inspected and, in a speech, praised an Oak Ridge High School's water treatment project displayed at the White House.

The occasion was the first-ever White House Science Fair on October 18, showcasing innovative projects by students selected from across the nation. Three Oak Ridge students traveled with the exhibit and spent about five minutes talking with the president.

The exhibit model, called the Wildcat Water Purifier (named for the ORHS team mascot), was based on LWW's Appalachian system, using a trash filter, two "big blues" and a UV lamp. Its unusual aspect was that it was powered by a water wheel that generated electricity to run the system.

Accompanying the exhibit were two ORHS students, Sam Snodgrass and Mattie Lloyd, and a graduate now attending Georgia Tech, Sonja Solomon.

They were part of a team organized by physics teacher Peggy Bertrand Terpstra, wife of CWU 101 lead instructor Dan Terpstra, and coached on water board specifics by Tim Myrick, LWW Committee moderator. 



From left, Sam Snodgrass, 17; Sonja Solomon, 19, and Mattie Lloyd, 17, all of Oak Ridge, pose with their "Wildcat" water purification system on Pennsylvania Avenue after participating in the White House Science Fair in October.

— Photo by Adam Liebendorfer, Scripps Howard New Service

Newsweek sees 'global freshwater crisis'

The world water crisis continues to make headline news.

In the wake of *National Geographic* devoting its entire April 2010 issue to water, *Newsweek* magazine made privatizing of water sources the cover story of its issue of October 18, 2010.

"Everyone agrees that we are in the midst of a global freshwater crisis," *Newsweek* declared. "Around the world, rivers, lakes, and aquifers are dwindling faster than Mother Nature can possibly replenish them; industrial and household chemicals are rapidly polluting what's left.

"Meanwhile, global population is ticking skyward. Goldman

Sachs estimates that global water consumption is doubling every 20 years, and the United Nations expects demand to outstrip supply by more than 30 percent come 2040."

Against that backdrop, the magazine detailed a variety of efforts to turn water into a commercial commodity. Hundreds of U.S. cities, including Pittsburgh, Chicago and Santa Fe, are looking to privatize.

That can make commercial sense, the article said: If people had to pay more for water they'd use it more carefully.

"But water is not like other commodities — it's not something

people can substitute or choose to forgo," an official of the antiprivatization group Food and Water Watch was quoted as saying.

In July, the U.N. General Assembly declared water to be a basic human right.

In some situations privatization of water has its place, the magazine suggested.

"With the right incentives, [industry] can develop and supply the technology needed to make water delivery more cost effective and environmentally sound. ... Unless we manage our water better now, we will run out. When that happens, no pricing or management scheme in the world will save us."